

The Great Wall

CHINA

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Lecturer and Traveler



THE MENTOR · DEPARTMENT OF TRAVEL · SERIAL No. 81

MENTOR GRAVURES

THE GREAT WALL · PEKING · PORT ARTHUR, MAN-
CHURIA · MARKET PLACE, SHANGHAI · THE FLOWER
PAGODA, CANTON · MOUNTAINSIDE VILLAS, HONGKONG

CHINA is a big subject, and if by the name China we mean the old Chinese Empire, it is a far bigger one. It is larger than all of Europe, its area amounting to 4,300,000 square miles. Its breadth for a great part of this area is over 1,800 miles, and its greatest length is 3,100 miles. When we add to these figures the extent of China's seaboard, which is 5,000 miles, and the total of its population, which is estimated at the round figure of 400,000,000, we can see that our statement that China is a big subject is a moderate one.

China, or Cathay, as it was known in the Middle Ages, is a baffling subject. It is so old, so curious in its habits and customs, and in many ways so hard to understand! And the national attitude is most baffling. This huge thing we call China opposes to all endeavors to penetrate its mysteries either a placid and invincible indifference or an outright antagonism.

A cultivated Chinaman, addressing an American, expressed himself as follows: "Your government," he said, "is only a little more than a

hundred years old. What significance has the history of nations that measure their life in mere centuries? China has come to be what it is in the course of *thousands* of years. You show us your art. We can show you bronzes that are better than yours which are 2,000 years old. We knew the art of printing centuries before you did. You criticize our philosophy, and you say that our customs are topsyturvy. Your point of view is a short one. Look at us through 4,000 years!"

Such words make us thoughtful. Our answer would be that Japan too had great antiquity, but that Japan within the last sixty years had taken on new life and was abreast of other nations in modern methods of government and national economy. Even while making this answer, however, we are conscious of the weight and wisdom of the ages confronting us in China, and we experience a feeling akin to awe in considering the history and the mystery of it all. So many characteristics of this extraordinary nation puzzle and disturb us. Some of them shock us. With western tastes and modern habits and points of view, we echo the words of Tennyson:

"Better fifty years of Europe
Than a cycle of Cathay."

Marco Polo, the famous traveler of the thirteenth century, first called the attention of Europe to the wonders of the Middle Kingdom. Marco Polo was a native of Venice, and in 1271 he made a tour through Asia, reaching China in 1275. At that time the great emperor, Kublai Khan (koob'-ly kahn), ruled the land. He received Marco Polo cordially, and gave him a government position. Inasmuch, however,

as the empire was closed to foreigners, Kublai Khan held Marco Polo as an honored prisoner for sixteen years. Finally he escaped and returned to Venice. Naturally he came to know a great deal of China during his sojourn there, and his account is therefore most valuable today. The period of which Marco Polo wrote was the Golden Age of China, the day of

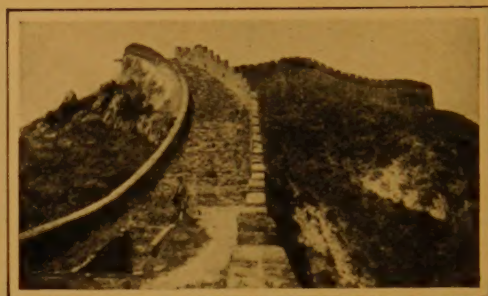


Photo by Chas. Beseler Co.

STEPS ON THE GREAT WALL



Photo by Chas. Beseler Co.

CHIEN MEMORIAL GATEWAY, PEKING

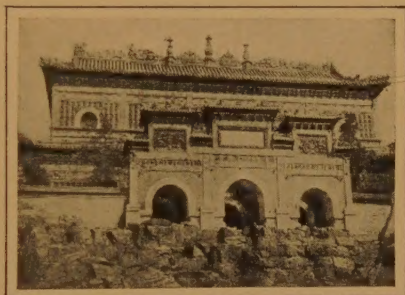
its greatest glory. And credit for this was largely due to Kublai Khan, who ruled wisely and built well. His name recalls the words of the poet Coleridge:

"In Xanadu did Kublai Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree;
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea."

Marco Polo's account of China created a great sensation among learned men, many of whom declared it to be nothing but fiction. However, it drew other travelers to the East, and in time his story became confirmed. But in the ages that followed few penetrated into the country, and China was known chiefly by certain spots



PALACES OF PEKING



IMPERIAL SUMMER PALACE, PEKING



Photo by Chas. Beseler Co.

MARBLE BOAT AT THE SUMMER
PALACE, PEKING

on or near the seacoast. Much of the interior remained a secret territory guarded by a Great Wall.

THE GREAT WALL

About three centuries after the time of Confucius, and two centuries before Christ, a strong military commander, Chi-hwangti by name, became emperor of China, and in order to stop the invasions of the Tartar and other hostile nations of the north he caused the Great Wall to be built along the northern border of the empire. Chi-hwangti was a man

of great force of character and a conqueror who brooked no rival. He seized the throne of China and put to death all those of royal blood. His title of Chi-hwangti stands for First Emperor. The name China is derived from the house from which Chi-hwangti was descended.

The Great Wall was built in ten years. We can appreciate what this achievement means when we note that this massive work of masonry begins at the sea above Peking and extends 1,500 miles along the northern border line of China; that it is 15 feet wide, 30 feet high, that it is made of granite, and is studded with many towers of defense all along its course. Chi-hwangti was ruthless in pursuing this work. He drove his subjects by force to labor on the wall, and thousands of them died there of overwork. And after all it came to nothing! It did not afford protection against the invader. The conquest of China was made during the reign of the successors of Chi-hwangti, and the wall proved to be no great obstacle in the way of the conquerors. As a wit observed, "The most important building in China is the Chinese wall, built to keep the Tartars out. It was such an enormous expense that the Chinese never got over it. *But the Tartars did.*"

Up until recent years the Great Wall of China was supposed to have terminated at the end of the Nan-shan Mountains. A recent explorer, Dr. Stein, however, has discovered under the sand of the desert remnants of

a great wall which extends miles away to the west. It is his belief that this wall, which has been partly excavated from the sand, is the old and true Great Wall, and that the part that extends to the sea may be more modern in its structure. The Great Wall is an imposing sight even in this day



GRAND PORCELAIN TOWER, PEKING
One of the beautiful buildings of the Imperial Palace, Peking



VIEW ACROSS THE LAKE FROM THE ISLAND OF PEKING

of vast engineering achievements. Like the Pyramids, it is an impressive example of the gigantic enterprise and constructive power of ancient races.

PEKING

Peking, or Pekin, capital of the Chinese Empire, has been an imperial city for nine centuries. It is a big city, and its actual population is one of the many Chinese mysteries. It has been estimated at 1,600,000, but in 1912 was placed at 805,000. A view over the city leads one to think that its population must be far more than this, because it covers such a great area. There are, however, large spaces not built on, especially in the Chinese City, and the grounds surrounding many of the residences and temples and the Imperial Palace are very extensive.

For years the eyes of all the civilized world rested with curiosity on Peking. Within its walls, carefully guarded, was situated the seat of China's authority, called the "Forbidden City." In the center of it is the emperor's palace, an imposing structure in which the destinies of China were determined. For centuries it was viewed with awe by the people of China. It was not until the Boxer Movement of 1900 that the features of the Forbidden City were unveiled. Peking, as we know, was looted by the allied armies, and the "Forbidden City" was ruthlessly invaded. To many the revelation was a disappointment. The comment of an American soldier tells the story: "Well, they call this the 'Forbidden City'! For my part, I don't see what there is to have made so much secret of all these years." And so the spell that had enveloped the Forbidden City was destroyed. The old order of things is ended in the Chinese capital. There, at least, now, if not throughout China, modern methods are being developed, and we hear with growing frequency of the "open door" through which closer international relations with China are being established.

On the north of the imperial city is an artificial knoll called Prospect Hill. It is 150 feet high, and has five summits, on each of which is a temple. It is surrounded by a wall, and presents a very attractive, park-like effect. Nearby is what is known as Western Park, which is really part of the palace grounds. North from Prospect Hill, not far away, is the residence of the governor of the city. It is near here that the



Photo by Chas. Besler Co.

ENTRANCE TO THE TEMPLE OF DEM-NEI, PEKING

famous bell and drum towers may be seen, the huge bell made at the order of Emperor Yung-lo. It weighs 120,000 pounds, and is fourteen feet high, thirty-four feet in circumference, and nine inches thick. From its cavernous mouth the signal of the night watch issues in a deep tone that can be heard all over the city.

A good way to view Peking is to ascend the mighty wall of the city and walk along the top. You



Photo by Chas. Beseler Co.

LI HUNG CHANG TEMPLE, SHANGHAI

will find there, at one point, the famous observatory with its interesting old astronomical instruments. Below the wall in a garden are a globe, a sextant, and a zodiacal sphere which were constructed in 1279 by Kublai Khan's court astronomer. Legation Street, where the embassies are, will attract the visitor from the West. He will find

friends there—which will be a relief after having been greeted as a “foreign devil” by some of the natives in the streets of Peking.

PORT ARTHUR

Peking is not many miles from the coast, and due east from the city across the land and then the Gulf of Pe-Chi-li, about 200 miles distant in all, is Port Arthur. The narrow peninsula of which this fortress is the point is not now Chinese territory; but it is too interesting a spot for anyone to overlook on a visit to China. Until 1894 Port Arthur was a Chinese fortress and naval arsenal. In that year it was captured by the Japanese, who made a number of alterations in the fortifications. Four years later it was leased to Russia and became a strongly fortified Russian fortress. There, at the end of 1904, the crowning incident of the Russo-Japanese War took place. Port Arthur fell, and the peninsula of Liao-tung, on which Port Arthur is situated, came under the control of Japan.

There is a stern beauty about the port and the harbor. Cold, bleak hills rise to a great height all about the fortress. One of these, called “203 Meter Hill,” will hold the attention of the visitor. It was from there that the Japanese observations were made that guided the gunners bombarding Port Arthur from the valley back of the hill. It is easy to understand why Port Arthur has been a much sought and much fought for point. It has many natural advantages. The harbor is land-locked except toward the south, and it is free of ice. Then too the waters of the bays and gulfs about the fortress make the situation a strong one for defensive operations. Port Arthur is a strategic spot

of great significance. Down through these land-locked waters the peninsula of Liao-tung points a warning finger toward the coast of China.

SHANGHAI

In planning a trip to China you will place Shanghai (shang-hy') among the first six cities to be seen; but it is not likely that you will stay there long. It has many of the worst characteristics of Chinese cities. A brief visit through the "China-town" of Shanghai will suffice anybody for that sort of thing. It calls aloud for disinfection. But Shanghai has come to be a very important city. Its position on the coast near the mouth of the Yangtse (yahngts) is one of great advantage, and Shanghai is now the principal port of central China.

In spite of the large amount of trade that passes to and from and through Shanghai, there are no buildings of any architectural or historic interest. Up until recent years there were no buildings of any attraction whatever. There are now, however, on the banks of the Hwangpu River many handsome houses, built by merchants of various nationalities, who have been drawn to Shanghai by business interests. In this section there is luxury, good society, and plenty of life and pleasure. The rest of the city is a striking contrast. It is low-lying, flat, and unbeautiful, inclosed within a great wall pierced by seven gates. But it is a great port of trade, and a growing manufacturing and industrial center. The features of native life to be seen in Shanghai are just of the squalid kind that you will find in many another Chinese city; Canton, (can-ton') for example, which, like Shanghai, is a large and busy commercial city.



Photo by Chas. Beseler Co.
CHINESE THEATER, MARKET PLACE, SHANGHAI



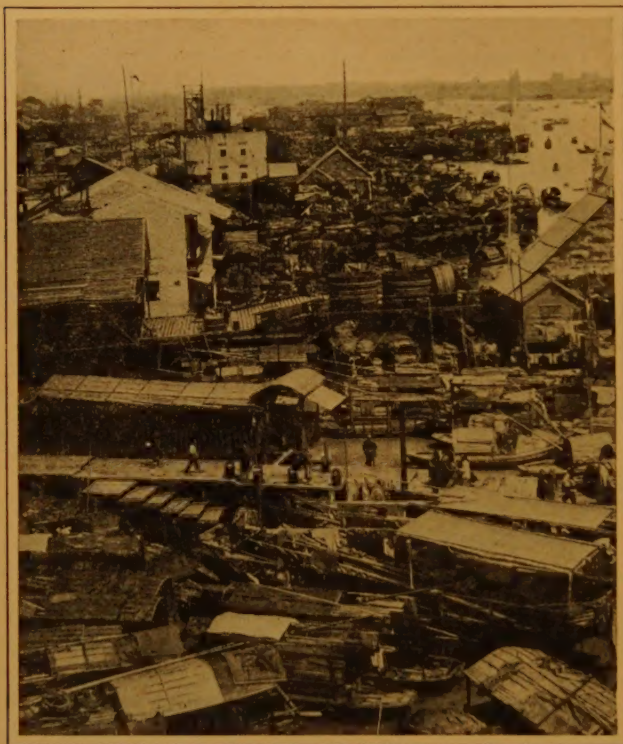
Photo by Chas. Beseler Co.
CHINESE SHOP ON NANKING ROAD, SHANGHAI

CANTON

In many respects, however, Canton is not at all like Shanghai. The climate is equable and fairly agreeable; while that of Shanghai is muggy, sticky, and depressing. Few large cities in the tropics are more healthy

than Canton; while Shanghai has its epidemics of dysentery, cholera, and smallpox. And while Canton's streets are narrow and none too clean, they compare favorably with the streets of Shanghai in point of cleanliness.

Canton is situated on the Pearl River, eighty miles from the sea, and may be approached in a very pleasant and convenient way by boat from



HOUSEBOATS ON THE CHUKIANG AT CANTON

It is said that 40,000 persons live in these floating homes. As there is no anchorage fee, and as a boat that will accommodate a family costs only about \$20, this form of house appeals strongly to the thrifty Chinaman

Hongkong. The first thing that impresses the traveler is the French cathedral, which thrusts its Gothic spires well up above the vast stretches of low city roofs. The next thing that arrests his attention is the active life on the river. Canton seems to be as much on water as on land. The actual shore cannot be seen for the multitude of low, curved-top boats that are huddled side by side as far as the eye can stretch. These boats are called "sampans," and are like floating kennels. They are the only homes some of the poor natives have, and they crowd into them in families of eight and ten to a single boat. In contrast to them are the "Flower Boats," which are gaily lighted floating restaurants, much patronized at night by pleasure seekers,

foreign and native. Looked at from above, Canton presents the appearance of a very irregular lumber yard filled with timber and bamboo rods of all colors. Almost nothing of the streets can be seen; for most of them are only narrow lanes, and they are covered by awnings. These narrow streets are like passageways through lines of shops, and they bear odd and picturesque names, such as "Heavenly Happiness," "Street of Peace," "Street of Refreshing Breezes," and "Lane of Benevolence and Love."

Canton impresses you more than any other Chinese city with its

industry and activity. It is "as busy and as buzzy as a beehive." The hum of humanity arrests your ear when you first land. In one section, called the "Shameen," the consular buildings may be seen, and there the foreigner may find pleasure and good company. Across a narrow canal lies the great native city with its population of nearly a million.



EXAMINATION CELLS, CANTON

These are rapidly being done away with under the republican form of government

Of buildings worth looking at there are only a few,—the mint, which was built in 1889, a large and well equipped institution; the Gothic French cathedral which I have mentioned; the Temple of the Five Hundred Gods, interesting for its great collection of idols; and the Flower Pagoda, which is indeed a very beautiful structure.

An interesting feature of Canton is the Examination Ground. This is a courtyard of sixteen acres covered with 11,000 brick sheds. It is through the Examination Ground that the Chinaman hopes to reach political and social prominence. At the time of examination each of these cells holds a candidate. He is searched before he enters, and carefully watched over after he is in. There he must stay for three days and nights, until he has finished his work and proved himself worthy or unworthy of recognition. A similar Examination Ground is in Peking. It may be a wonderful thing in an educational way, but it is all very odd and puzzling to foreigners.

After having seen Chinese life and conditions in Shanghai and Canton, it is a great relief to go to Hongkong and find ourselves among people that we can understand.

HONGKONG

Victoria is the name of the city; Hongkong is the name of the island—and how beautiful the place seems as we approach it after leaving Shanghai! The island is of irregular shape and is twenty-nine square miles in area. At the longest point it



A JOSS HOUSE

This name is applied to a small temple or a palace for idols

measures ten and one-half miles across. Hongkong itself means "fragrant streams." The Chinese have a faculty for pretty names; but often the pretty name covers a place that is far from pretty. Hongkong, however, is attractive in many ways. It has a beautiful harbor. The bays about the island are fine bodies of water. The land is mountainous, and the view as you face Victoria from the harbor is one of great beauty. Up from the town the hills rise in irregular masses to great heights, the loftiest point of which is Victoria Peak which has an altitude of 1,825 feet. And on various levels of the slope above the city are luxurious villas. The town is built in terraces. The lower level by the waterside has been enlarged by land reclaimed from the sea. This is called the "Praya" or esplanade, and there we find the shipping. On the second level are situated government houses and other public buildings. Here there are tastefully laid-out gardens, well constructed roads, and fine trees and plants of semitropical character. From there on up to the summit of the peak the hillside is dotted with private houses and bungalows. The view from the peak is magnificent.

On these upper slopes those inhabitants who have means seek relief in summer—and indeed relief is needed; for the climate in Hongkong is dreadfully hot and oppressively damp. A well known traveler once observed that the question that sometimes agitates a visitor in Hongkong is whether the mushrooms he finds on his shoes in the early morning are *edible*.

The life of Hongkong suits English and American travelers better than that of other cities of China; for it is a British possession, and has a large English-speaking population. Some of the main streets of the city are as imposing in the size and char-



A MODERN STREET IN HONGKONG



A STREET IN THE NATIVE QUARTER,
HONGKONG

acter of their buildings and in their bustling activity as those of leading cities in America and England.

The Hongkong Club is all that the most exacting New York or London clubman could ask for. There is plenty to see and plenty to do in Hongkong, and lots of entertainment and good companionship. Some travelers know China only through a short stay in Hongkong, and they bring home impressions of pleasure and satisfaction. No one can know China, however, simply by a visit to Hongkong—nor, for that matter, can he say that he knows it after hav-

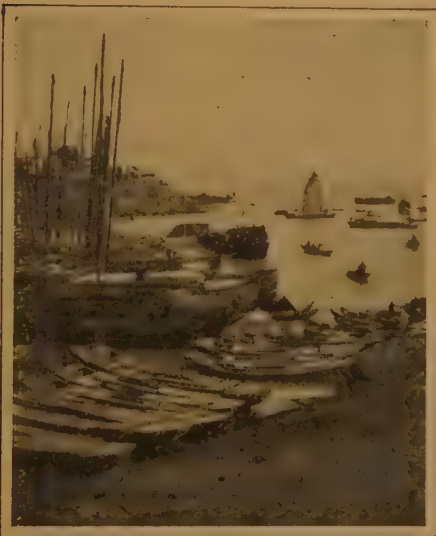


Photo by Carroll B. Malone

HANKOW

Where the Han River flows into the Yangtze.
Hankow means "the mouth of the Han"



Photo by Carroll B. Malone

HAN-YANG IRON WORKS

View from Tortoise Hill looking toward Hankow

ing visited Shanghai, Peking, or Canton. Hankow, a most important city, cannot be overlooked by anyone who wants to know China, and many another place too must be visited. And when all the better known places have been seen, still there is "much to be learned of Cathay."

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

CHINA (Two volumes) *By Sir John F. Davies.*
1857. One of the earliest authoritative books.

THE MIDDLE KINGDOM

By S. Wells Williams, D. D., LL. D.

A survey of the geography, government, literature, social life, arts and history of the Chinese Empire and its inhabitants.

CHINA AND THE CHINESE *By H. A. Giles.*
1902. Treats of the social life and customs of the Chinese.

THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF CHINA
1908. *By F. Hirth.*
An interesting story of China's early days.

CHINA, PAST AND PRESENT
1903. *E. H. Parker.*

PEOPLES AND POLITICS OF THE FAR EAST *By Henry Norman.*

CHINA UNDER THE EMPRESS DOWAGER

By J. O. P. Bland and Edmund Backhouse.

1910. The inside history of China and the life of the great Empress Dowager.

TWO YEARS IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY

1914. *By Princess Der Ling, first Lady in-Waiting to the Empress.*

ANNALS AND MEMOIRS OF THE COURT OF PEKING

By J. O. P. Bland and Edmund Backhouse.
1914.



THE OPEN LETTER



I have been looking over a map of China to find out just where the city of Pao-ting Fu is. Mr. Elmendorf makes no mention of it in his article; but that means nothing so far as Pao-ting Fu is concerned. It is plainly impossible for Mr. Elmendorf to cover in a brief article all the points even of importance in the great Chinese empire. A single town, especially a small one, is not an easy thing to find in China, even on a large map and with the help of a magnifying glass. A member of our staff is looking for a village mentioned in one of the books on the list of supplementary reading accompanying Mr. Elmendorf's article. He reports that it is like searching for a needle in a haystack.

★ ★ ★

Pao-ting Fu, however, is easy enough to find; for it is not a small place nor an insignificant one. It is the capital of the province of Chi-li, and it is situated in northern China about 100 miles from Peking and nearly the same distance from Tientsin.

I wanted to find Pao-ting Fu because a friend of The Mentor lives there. I have just had a message from him. This is the long distance record for Mentor letters. And, for that matter, it must remain the long distance record; for, since China is situated just beneath us on this big globe, any point on either side of it is nearer to us than China itself. This means that The Mentor has now encircled the earth; for we have had letters from Japan, Australia, Africa, and points in Asia. Our friend in China completes the circle.

It is plain that The Mentor idea is not a local one, nor is its interest confined to a single country. In all the letters that we



Photo by Carroll B. Malou:

THE GREAT WALL AT NANKOW PASS

View through the doorway of a tower.
Nankow Pass is the part of the wall nearest Peking

get from different quarters of the globe, the message seems to be pretty much the same, and the point of view of all the writers from various lands is virtually identical.

★ ★ ★

This is what our member from China has to say: "We should like to express our thanks to the originator of The Mentor idea, and our appreciation of your very able staff for what they furnish us. The Mentor hits us just at the place where we miss the homeland most—in its appeal to esthetic taste. We enjoy every number exceedingly. We are keeping The Mentors very carefully, hoping

to use them a great deal in the education of our children, who have not yet arrived at the age of appreciation. We send you our best wishes for a long and ever growing success." Then follow a number of interesting and valuable suggestions for future numbers of The Mentor.

★ ★ ★

It is very pleasant to learn that The Mentor is known in China, especially when our reader tells us that he has been a member of The Mentor Association since the beginning. Evidently the first message of The Mentor traveled far and fast. I like to picture The Mentor lying on the table of a home in Pao-ting Fu, and I delight in the thought that it is an influence in a household in China, and that the children there are growing to know it and appreciate it. By a happy chance, I am able to print his message in our "China" number. I hope our good friend likes Mr. Elmendorf's article.

W. D. Moffat

EDITOR



THE GREAT WALL, CHINA



HE GREAT WALL, the barrier built to protect China from the barbarians of the North, is the subject of one of the intaglio-gravure pictures illustrating "China."

THE GREAT CHINESE WALL

Monograph Number One in The Mentor Reading Course

THE huge republic of China may very well be compared to one of its marvels, the Great Wall. This mighty work on the northern frontier has hardly ever been surpassed in the history of architecture, not even by the builders of the Pyramids. It is 30 feet high and 15 feet broad, and at intervals of 200 yards it has watch towers which are still higher.

This great rampart is typical of China. Both are ancient, and both are enormous in size. China's age of progress and invention is passed, while the heyday of this old wall was long, long ago, when warriors stood on every tower, and it stretched, a formidable barrier, for hundreds of miles. And just as this monster of masonry outlived its usefulness and crumbled to decay, so the huge country that it bounded fell into the deep sleep of centuries. But now the old empire, under a republican form of government, seems aroused to new activity. Fresh life-blood has been infused into her veins, and the new progressive party has overcome the conservatism of the nation. China is once more awake.

Chi-hwangti built the Great Wall. He called himself the first emperor of China, and ordered all the books of the great teacher Confucius to be burned so that

there should be no records to prove that he did not deserve this title. In order to prevent these records being rewritten, he put 100 scribes and writers to death, and sent many of the rest to labor on the Great Wall. This wall was designed to keep out the Mongolian horsemen, or Tatars; but it did not succeed in its purpose.

The Great Wall is 1,500 miles long, and in its uninterrupted march it spans deep valleys and climbs to the tops of lofty mountain crests. In one place it is nearly 5,000 feet above sea level.

But although Chi-hwangti was a powerful ruler and did many great things, he was a cruel tyrant, and his name is hated by the Chinese down to the present day. The Great Wall cost so much that the people never recovered from the debt. It has been calculated that if it were built today with Caucasian labor its cost would pay for all the railroads in the United States. Sometime ago an English engineer reckoned that its masonry represented more than all the houses of England and Scotland put together. It is also estimated that the material in the wall would construct a stone rampart six feet high and two feet thick round the whole world.

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PEKING, CHINA



PEKING, the capital, a city that until recently was the center of all Chinese mystery, is the subject of one of the intaglio-gravure pictures illustrating "China."

PEKING

Monograph Number Two in The Mentor Reading Course

WE call the city Peking now. It has had many names in the course of its long history. In 989 an army of invading Tatars (commonly called Tartars) made it their headquarters and called it Nanking, or "southern capital." Then, in the early part of the twelfth century, the Chinese recaptured it and gave it the name of Yen-shan-fu. In 1151 the city was once more in possession of the Tatars, and was then called Chung-tu, which means "central capital." About one hundred years after that it was taken by the great Mogul Emperor Jenghiz Khan, and it was his grandson, the famous Kublai Khan, who, sometime near the end of the thirteenth century, rebuilt the city and called it Yenking. He made the city famous; for he was as great a ruler as a soldier. In the next century his successors ruled there in what they called the "north court," or Peking.

The modern city now consists of the "Tatar City" or inner city where the foreign embassies are, and the outer city which is known as the "Chinese City." It is not easy for any but a native to distinguish these two cities; for, while each has its own wall, they overlap each other at points in a manner that is puzzling. In the very center of the Tatar City was the famous Forbidden City, where the emperor held his court.

Just outside the Forbidden City the Temple of Heaven stands. Grand indeed were the pageants held when the emperor visited this temple to pray for a good harvest. Here at early morning, on December 21 of each year, the monarch used to offer sacrifice on an open altar to the great god Shang-ti. In the same temple stands the altar of prayer for good harvests.

The other powers of nature—the earth, the sun, and the moon—also have shrines dedicated to them in various parts of the city.

In the southeastern part of the Tatar City there used to stand an observatory which was built at the order of Kublai Khan in the thirteenth century.

In Peking stand the Imperial Factories, where beautiful silks and china were made for the emperor to give as presents. There are also many splendid tombs, palaces, and fairylike gardens which stand out in striking contrast with the dirt and poverty to be seen everywhere else.

The inhabitants of Peking are consumers only, and therefore the trade of the city is very small. In 1897 a railway was opened between Tientsin and Peking, after much opposition from the conservative Chinese.

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PORT ARTHUR, MANCHURIA



PORT ARTHUR, Manchuria, which was captured by the Japanese in their war with Russia, is the subject of one of the intaglio-gravure pictures illustrating "China."

PORT ARTHUR

Monograph Number Three in The Mentor Reading Course

PORT ARTHUR was a New Year's present from Russia to Japan. Its surrender to the Japanese on the first day of 1905 virtually decided the outcome of the Russo-Japanese War.

Port Arthur is a harbor of great commercial importance in the East. Japan was forced to relinquish it, and when Russia seized it the Japanese were very angry. Finally Japan declared war on Russia in 1904. This was in February, and on the 8th their main battle fleet, commanded by Admiral Togo, was attacking Port Arthur. Soon after they established a strict blockade of the port.

Then the Japanese army began its advance, which, due to Russia's unpreparedness, was exceptionally successful. But Port Arthur was naturally fitted to withstand all attacks, and the Japanese saw that they had a long, hard task before them. The bombardment of the forts began in March, 1904; but the besiegers were repulsed with great loss of life. The Japanese soldiers invited

rather than shunned death, as they believed that a man killed in battle was sure to go to heaven.

All through the fall and early winter the siege continued. Conditions within the forts of Port Arthur were terrible. Finally the Japanese captured 203 Meter Hill in the early part of December, and on the 31st the greater part of the main fort was blown up. The next day General Stoessel surrendered the citadel into the hands of the Japanese.

Port Arthur is situated at the extreme south of the peninsula of Liao-tung, in the Chinese principality of Manchuria. In olden times it was a Chinese naval arsenal and fortress; but in 1894 the Japanese captured it and destroyed most of its defenses. In 1898 it was leased to Russia, and gradually converted into a stronghold.

Its harbor is natural, entirely landlocked except to the south. Barren and rocky hills rise from the water's edge all around.

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MARKET PLÅCE, SHANGHAI, CHINA



MARKET PLACE, in Shanghai, which may be considered a typical Chinese city, is the subject of one of the intaglio-gravure pictures illustrating "China."

SHANGHAI

Monograph Number Four in The Mentor Reading Course

ALTHOUGH Shanghai is one of the most important cities in China, it is nevertheless a spot that the ordinary tourist very often avoids. Shanghai's importance is due to its great trade; its unpopularity, to its unpleasant conditions of climate and hygiene.

And yet Shanghai has its "Model Settlement." This is in the foreign part of the city. All the white male population of Shanghai meets at the club, which is one of the most comfortable and complete in the world. There news is exchanged, parties are formed, and business is carried on. Shanghai has also its country club, with races, polo, cricket, and baseball.

The name "Model Settlement" for the foreign part of Shanghai was given it long ago. Sometime later a noble English tourist came along, and later described it in the House of Lords as "a sink of corruption." A keen-witted consul then suggested that Shanghai should be known as "The Model Sink." However, as far as the Anglo-American part is concerned, Shanghai appears to be one of the best governed municipalities in the world.

Shanghai stands on the River Wusung, at the junction of the Hwangpu, 12 miles from where that river empties into the lower part of the Yangtse. The city is surrounded by a wall three and a half miles in circumference which has seven gateways.

Though Shanghai has always been favorably situated as a port through

which trade might pass, it did not attract the attention of foreigners until 1841. Two years later a treaty was made by which Shanghai was included among the four new ports that were thrown open to trade. In 1843 Captain George Balfour, the British consul, selected the site of the present English colony, and later on the American colony sprang up nearby.

At first merchants were not much interested in the opportunities offered them at Shanghai. It is said that, at the end of the first year of its history as an open port, the city could count only 23 foreign residents and their families, and that only 44 foreign vessels had arrived during that time. Gradually, however, the advantages of this port were recognized by merchants of all countries.

There were so many foreigners other than British citizens who came to live in Shanghai that they decided to adopt some other form of government than that supplied by a British consul. So a committee of residents, consisting of a chairman and six members, was elected to govern the foreigners there. Finally, in 1863, the Americans put themselves under British protection.

But ten years before this, in 1853, Chinese rebels captured the native city and kept possession of it for two years. This was a serious setback to the prosperity of the colonists. When these rebels were finally expelled the city again became a trade center, and its prosperity greatly increased.

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THE FLOWER PAGODA. CANTON. CHINA



THE FLOWER PAGODA, in Canton, the bustling city in which the great preliminary examinations of China are held, is the subject of one of the intaglio-gravure pictures illustrating "China."

CANTON

Monograph Number Five in The Mentor Reading Course

SURELY the most curious thing about Canton is the long rows of examination sheds. The greatest ambition that a Chinese boy has is to become a scholar; for only scholars may aspire to the highest places. One writer has said, however, that the Chinese scholars are the most educated in the world, but not the best educated. They absorb a mass of learning which is of no practical use. At the age of five Chinese boys are able to read and even repeat whole volumes of the works of the great Chinese scholar, Confucius. They are able to do this before they even know the meaning of the words. The only way to obtain success in examinations is to know by heart the works of all the wisest writers.

Every male, from the ages of 18 to 90 years, may compete for a degree. The examinations are held every three years in a 20-acre inclosure filled with long sheds of brick and tile, each divided into small cells for the convenience of the candidates. Although there are over 11,000 of these boxes, usually there are more candidates than room. For three days and nights the scholars must sit in their narrow cells writing essays on quotations from the classics and poems or studies of abstruse points of philosophy.

The first degree that may be obtained is that of "Flowering Talent," which is but the beginning. Then at Peking come the more severe trials. The degrees that they may obtain there are those of "Promoted Talent" and of "Advanced Scholar." When these have

been achieved the scholars become "Expectants of Office."

Most of life has been wasted in this ponderous manner; but it is all considered worth while, because the men that succeed attain the highest social plane. They are regarded as successful men, and receive the reverence and admiration of the less learned.

But many of the candidates never receive degrees. Nevertheless, so great is the patience of the Chinese that they will persevere year after year in their attempts. In one competition there were 35 candidates over 80 years old, and 18 at the age of 90.

Gradually, however, under the new progressive form of government that China is enjoying, these useless examinations are disappearing, and probably within the next few years the ponderous tests will altogether disappear.

Canton is fascinating because of its mystery. The real Canton is difficult to photograph and almost impossible to describe. To a Westerner it seems "all jumbled up." It has an atmosphere of its own, oriental and mysterious—and this atmosphere cannot be photographed. The people themselves avoid the camera.

The real sights of Canton, the temples, guilds, and all the paraphernalia of native life, are hidden in the native city. Moored to the banks of the canal are the boats in which the poorer class lives. Back farther are the busy streets, with their fascinating Chinese shops. But it is hard for the Westerner to comprehend it all, and to realize that out of all this confusion must come some sort of native order.



MOUNTAINSIDE VILLAS, HONGKONG, CHINA



OUNTAINSIDE VILLAS, at Hongkong, a city which is England's most important trade center in the Far East, is the subject of one of the intaglio-gravure pictures illustrating "China."

HONGKONG

Monograph Number Six in The Mentor Reading Course

HONGKONG is one of the most interesting cities in the world. In every respect the foreign quarter is a modern city, with its hotels, clubs, restaurants, and parks; but like every Chinese city it has the subtle atmosphere of the Orient which defies definition. In 1841 it was a rugged island with not a sign of civilization. Today on the same spot rises a splendid city of over 300,000 people.

The story of Hongkong is an interesting one. Hongkong is the name of the entire island that came into the hands of the English in 1842 as a voluntary cession on the part of China. China has made many of these voluntary cessions; but it is a peculiar fact that the giving of these valuable gifts is always preceded by the assembling of fleets, the roar of cannon, and the marching of troops.

In 1840 British trade with Canton had come to an end because of Chinese interference and enmity. Thereupon an English fleet blockaded the Canton River. The forts were taken, and some of the Chinese warships destroyed.

Trade was quickly resumed, and then came the voluntary cession of the barren island of Hongkong.

Only a few fishermen and farmers lived there; but a city was quickly founded and called Victoria, after the ruling queen of England. However, this city is known to the world at large by the name of the entire island, Hongkong. In 70 years this little town has become a thriving city, one of the most important of England's colonial possessions.

In 1899 an extensive bit of ground behind Hongkong was "voluntarily ceded" to England, 200 Chinamen being killed in the process.

Victoria has become a great seaport. It is a free port,—that is, no duties are exacted on goods entering or leaving,—and therefore it is difficult to estimate the amount of trade that passes through it. This, however, has been calculated as being \$250,000,000 a year. Among the principal goods dealt with are tea, silk, sugar, flax, salt, oil, cotton, vegetables, and livestock.

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